

Mr. Les Whitten
1401 16 St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

4/8/77

Dear Les,

Fortunately I'm winded from dragging firewood uphill to the house so with the physical drain I'm reduced to sorrow for the column in writing about the bob-tailed version in today's Post.

With all your problems with the Post you feed them this poorly-reheated mixture of the well-known (original sources hidden to make on the committee can do more than read) and low-grade crappy speculation.

My friendly advice is that you recognize some changes have taken place in the major media, from the number and caliber of those who are coming here for cram-courses and books.

Jack is going to skewer himself yet trying to will reality into the senseless that he and Drew were conned into using as a major disinformation operation back in 1967, the "astro-kickback petard."

There are amny who have suspected a mafia link to the assassination. I have helped them all I can even though from what I know it is close to impossible. It is because all leads should be followed and because there is no way of turning them off. So for years, with diligence, these non-existing leads have been followed with non-existing results. I won't bother arguing that nonbody in his right mind would have trusted Ruby with anything of a level that would get him to see Trafficante in a Cuban jail.

The rest is shameful. It also is shameful to blame the FBI and CIA for the failures of the Commission. The Commission knew what was going on. I've published their once-secret records on this. No innocence. It is plain dishonesty to blame these errant agencies for everything.

The FBI Oswald file, for example. Now if you want it you can join in my overdue FOIA request for it, provide counsel and have first-crack at its contents. There is a limit to what I can sue for. But if Jack did not throw my Oswald in New Orleans away when he asked for it in 1967 and then ignored it you will find in it the proof that old J. Edgar himself offered the entire file to the Commission and that old Earl Warren personally refused to accept it. Belmont had it with him. Now I know you won't apologize to the FBI but you should. (I got in trouble years ago - and it cost me much- to try to get Warren's friends to recognize that only truth could defend him. His friends like Drew and Jack will leave him with no defense for his reputation.)

Helms talked the Commission into agreeing for the CIA to withhold. I have and I think have published memos by Coleman and Slawson on this. The Commission knew. For all that the CIA can be blamed for this is not even-handed.

You know very well that when after a suit in which for the first time I defeated the government on a national-defense claim I got the 1/27/64 transcript your column found none of this newsworthy. However, the Post carried a long story, as did AP and UPI. So your editors with any memory at all know you gull them in this part of the column and do no more than shill for a bankrupt committee.

No longer Odio is no longer a Dallas woman. The rest, as you very well know, the column also found not to be newsworthy when I published it years ago in the first book on the Commission and its Report. There is an Odio story I'll certainly not tell you or the committee now. Aside from this she has been conned into faith in the Fonz, who is a virtual assassin. Tannenbaum was personally warned in advance of the Fonz leaning on the sick deMohrenschildt. He was given the name of the shrink, too. So he knew better and deM is dead.

Once you were repeating this I'm surprised you did not make the possible connections. Ignorant sources or bad reporting.

Now there is no such thing as a "No Name Key Group." There were two very small bands (I know of two-maybe more) of childish grown-ups playing futile games. I have interviewed the leaders of both and one who was second-in-command of both. I have little doubt that the pictures you talk about are those I obtained from Larry Howard only to have the Garrisonian marginal paranoids I trusted in LA duplicate them and begin the fabrication of endless mythologies about them. However, this can lead you to libel. Several areas of it, too. So be careful.

The committee is undependable and unscrupulous. Most of its people are uninformed. Their sources are pathological liars in some case. And there is no immunity in leaks.

See, I didn't even cuss you.

Hope you don't wind up doing it to yourselves.

Sincerely,